

A Message from Mrs Kee

This week we have continued to face challenges due to Covid. Although there has been a considerable impact on staffing levels, our team has pulled together to ensure that the children at Violet Way continue to receive face-to-face learning in school and those having to isolate have access to remote learning. Thank you to staff and parents for your continued support. In order to cover staff absence this week, several classes have had different teachers in class. I really enjoyed teaching in Badgers on Tuesday! We appreciate that changes can sometimes be a little unsettling. However, due to our routines, rules and consistent approaches in school, the children have taken it all in their stride! The staff that have covered, have all complimented the behaviour and positive attitudes of our pupils – well done!

In our Merit assembly this week, we had some children bring in swimming certificates, football trophies and dance medals. If your child has an achievement to celebrate, they can bring their awards into school on Fridays to be recognised and commended in assembly. I also made a special announcement about something BIG that is happening soon! Over the last couple of weeks, I have carried out 'Pupil Voice' monitoring with a focus on reading. The aim of 'Pupil Voice' is to literally give our pupils a voice to inform change and further development in school. In the newsletter this week there is more information about what they said and our BIG news!

The focus of class assemblies this week was solving problems. The children were given different scenarios and were encouraged to think beyond what is happening in the immediate moment and consider consequences of their actions. There is a lovely 'mindfulness' video you can watch with your child about how to make good choices: [How to Make Good Choices: Mindfulness for Kids](#) | [Cosmic Kids \(app preview\)](#) – YouTube

Thank you for your continued support. Have a great weekend, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole School (this week)	90.09%
Reception	90.81%
Year 1	93.44%
Year 2	86.17%

Congratulations to

Dragonflies

for being the class with
the highest attendance
this week! Well done
on your fantastic attendance
this week.

**Make sure your child
attends school every day so that
they get the most from
their education.**

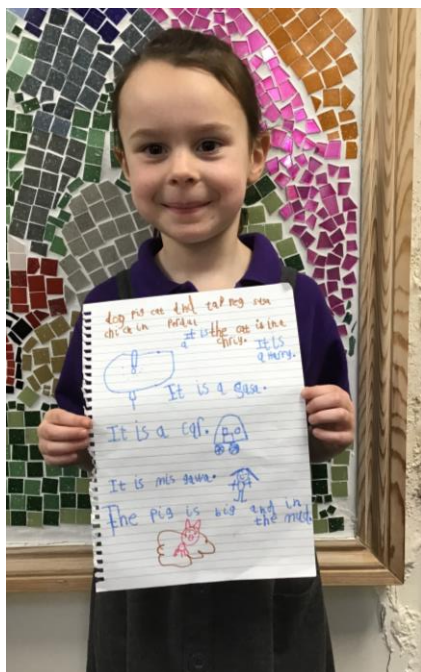


Merit Award Winners





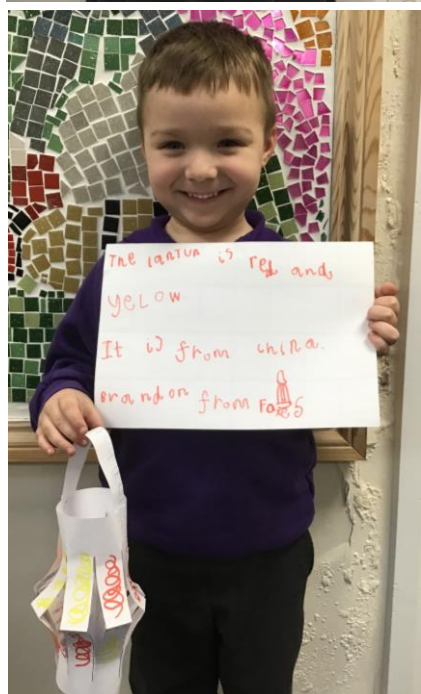
Early Writing



The children in Reception have embraced a range of early reading and writing opportunities in their classes this week. They have been writing labels, messages and information about their creative work.

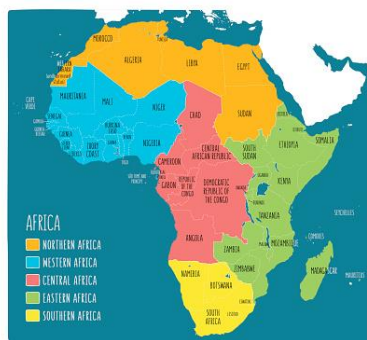
I enjoyed reading their lovely word and sentence writing. Keep up the good work!

Mrs Williams has also received some lovely writing from home – she will be counting up to see which year group has completed the most writing at home next week!





Year 2 Curriculum Experience



Our Year 2 pupils had a wonderful experience on Monday. Linked to their current learning about Africa, they enjoyed an African drumming experience. Mr Baugh, one of the 'Rock it! music teachers, came in to model, demonstrate and teach the children how to play different drums. It was such a wonderful experience enjoyed by all!





Thursday 3rd Feb – Chinese New Year menu

Next week on **Thursday 3rd February** we will be offering a **Chinese New Year themed menu instead of the usual dinner**. The menu is as follows:

Battered chicken chunks with sweet & sour sauce

Or

Mini Vegetable spring rolls

With egg noodles, rainbow rice, peas & sweetcorn

Plus, strawberry jelly cubes served with peach segments & a fortune cookie!

The menu will not change on ParentPay so please order online as normal, but be aware that if you order the main option, it will be the main on this Chinese New Year menu that your child receives. If you order the vegetarian option, it will be the Chinese New Year menu vegetarian option.

Please be aware that the catering team have informed us, for themed menus, jacket potatoes will not be an option.



Parent Meetings

Thank you to all our parents that have responded to the survey about face to face and Teams meetings for our parents' evenings.

We are pleased to be able to offer both options.

The parents' meetings are scheduled for Monday 28th February and Tuesday 1st March and will be sending out further information and the option for parents to let us know their date and time preferences soon.





The children are so excited! We hope to have our new library installed in February and a grand opening once it is complete! Thank you to the PTA for supporting this important project.

To make reading even better at Violet way, you told Mrs Kee....

"I'd like some nice places to sit in the library."

"It would be good for us to be able to use the library at lunchtimes. Each year group could have a day when they can go in."

"We could read to our family and friends."

"We could share our books with our friends or read to other children in school."

Our new library will have.....

- ✓ **seat pods that can be stored away**
- ✓ **a chair for the teacher to sit and read stories to your whole class**
- ✓ **lots of easy access shelving and book boxes to keep our books neat and tidy**
- ✓ **a new table for you to sit at and read with your friends**
- ✓ **enough space for us to invite our parents to our library sessions**





Covid continues....

Thank you to parents for continuing to LFD test when advised. This has meant that we have identified children without symptoms very quickly. The stance from the DfE and Local Authority currently is that we continue to offer face-to-face education for all pupils in school unless it becomes operationally unmanageable. At the moment, thanks to a great team, we have been able to manage. I will continue to keep you informed.

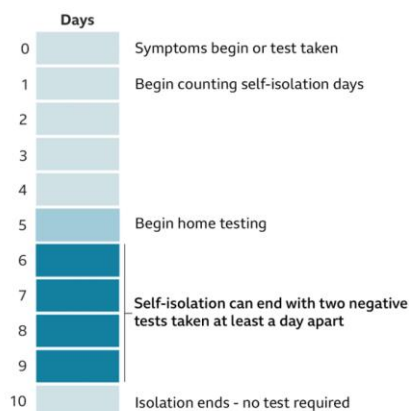
We will continue to communicate regularly with the Local Authority as appropriate and follow any guidance as required. We continue to monitor the situation daily. Measures in place currently include:

- good hygiene practices, reviewed with children regularly
- ventilation (keeping windows open slightly to allow air flow)
- good cleaning routines
- systems in place for informing close contacts
- staff continue to LFD twice per week and daily if identified as a close contact
- daily testing for close contacts
- anyone with symptoms to isolate straight away and get tested
- parental events postponed currently
- educational visitors asked to wear masks
- risk assessment in place

We are not currently having whole school assemblies in the hall. Children will have their Monday and Friday assemblies in year groups. Mrs Kee continues to regularly review the situation and will keep parents informed.

The diagram opposite explains the current isolation Expectations. You begin isolation the day after Symptoms or a positive test. You have to isolate for at least five full days. You can LFD test on day five and day 6 (24 hours apart) and if both tests are negative, you can finish isolating immediately. If the tests are positive you continue to isolate up to 10 days or when you have two negative tests 24 Hours apart.

How five-day isolation rule works in England



Source: NHS



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Dates for your diary

Staffordshire Term Dates 2021-22

Autumn Term 2021

Inset day: Wednesday 1 September

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September

Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October

Term ends: Friday 17 December

Holiday: Monday 20 December – Monday 3 January

Spring Term 2022

Inset day: Tuesday 4 January

Term Starts: Wednesday 5 January

Half Term: Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February

Term ends: Thursday 7 April

Inset day: Friday 8 April

Holiday: Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 17 April

Summer Term 2022

Term starts: Monday 25 April

May Day: Monday 2 May

Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

Term ends: Wednesday 20 July

Holiday: Thursday 21 July – Friday 2 September

Violet Way Inset Days

Wednesday 1st September

Friday 22nd October

Tuesday 4th January

Friday 8th April

Monday 6th June (School closed for Queen's Jubilee)

Monday 20th June

What's Coming Up?

Library sessions with parents – POSTPONED until w/c 31st January 2022

Year 2 African Drumming Sessions – 24th January

Reception visits to Wing Wah – Week commencing 31st January

Children's Mental Health Week – Week commencing 7th February

Safer Internet day - Tuesday 8th February

Parent online safety workshop – Tuesday 8th February at 2:15pm

World book day – Thursday 3rd March

World book dress up assembly - Friday 4th March
(There will be a reading theme over these two days)

Food Waste Action Week – Week commencing 7th March

World Down's Syndrome day – Monday 21st March
– wear blue and yellow and donate £1.00

Mother's Day Play and Stay sessions – Friday 25th March

Year R - 9:00am

Year 1 - 10:00am

Year 2 - 11:00am

Easter Egg hunt in the Woodlands with the Easter Bunny – Thursday 7th April

